



13 August 2025

Our Ref: FOI 1269

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Trust Spend with Framework Agencies – Locum
Nurses**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 3 July 2025. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Finance & Estates Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

Please be advised that in relation to the '**spend breakdown by supplier**' within questions 1d and 2d I would like to advise you that the Trust has decided not to release the information that is held for the following reasons:

The information requested in regards to spend breakdown by supplier within questions 1d & 2d, is exempt from release under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This is a qualified exemption and so a Public Interest Test was carried out to decide if the information should be released or not. Having weighed up the factors for and against release, it was decided to withhold this information because:

Section 43 (2) - (Prejudice to Commercial Interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000). The disclosure of such information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in regards to the spend breakdown by supplier within questions 1d & 2d.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this

response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1a. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 please provide a breakdown of total trust spend with framework agencies for locum nurses.

A1a. The total Trust spend with framework agencies for locum Nurses for the period 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025 is £6,231,550.

Please note that Table 1, 3 and 5 relate to all Nursing staff i.e. Healthcare Assistants, Registered and Unregistered Nurses as well as those in management positions.

Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:

Q1b. Spend per band.

A1b. Please see Table 1 for the total Trust spend with framework agencies for locum Nurses, broken down by band from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 1

Band	Total Spend
Band 2	£1,453,898
Band 3	£559,329
Band 5	£4,101,097
Band 6	£117,227

Q1c. Spend per speciality.

A1c. The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown of spend by speciality as the use of Agency Nurses is to support care and treatment of medial outlier patients rather than aligned to a speciality.

Q1d. Agency name.

A1d. Please see Table 2 for the list of framework agencies used for locum Nurses from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 2

Allied and Clinical Recruitments
Anns Nursing Care
Axis Nursing Agency
BFS Healthcare Ltd
Carrik Care Ltd
Direct Medics Ltd
First Choice Selection Services
Frontline Recruitment Group Ltd
Jark Belfast Ltd

Keenan Healthcare Ltd
Kingdom Healthcare Ltd
Knockdene Healthcare
Leadcare Nursing Agency Ltd
MBands Ltd T/A MB&S Healthcare
Medicircle
Medlocums Recruitment Ltd
MPA Recruitment
NC Healthcare Ltd
Next Step Nursing Ltd
North West Care & Support
Nursing & Caring Direct
Peninsula Care Services NI Ltd
Plan B Healthcare
Pure Healthcare Group Ltd
Rutledge Recruitment Ltd
Staffline Recruitment
The Placement Group T/A Just Nurses
The Recruitment Co
Total Care Recruitment Ltd
Total Talent Management
Vivid Healthcare Search Ltd

Q2. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 please provide a breakdown of total trust spend with off framework agencies for locum nurses.

A2a. The total Trust spend with off framework agencies for locum Nurses for the period 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025 is £471,944.

Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:

Q2b. Spend per band.

A2b. Please see Table 3 for the total Trust spend with off framework agencies for locum Nurses, broken down by band from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 3

Band	Total Spend
Band 2	£33,609
Band 3	£238,610
Band 5	£75,843
Band 6	£123,883

Q2c. Spend per speciality.

A2c. The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown of spend by speciality as the use of agency Nurses is to support care and treatment of medial outlier patients rather than aligned to a speciality.

Q2d. Agency name.

A2d. Please see Table 4 for the list of off framework agencies used for locum Nurses from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 4

Balmoral Healthcare Recruitment
BFS Healthcare Ltd
Bonds Search and Selection
Electus Healthcare (Saintfield) Ltd
Kennedy Recruitment
Kingdom Healthcare Ltd
Lydian Care Ltd
NC Healthcare Ltd
Peninsula Care Services NI Ltd
Rose Lodge Care (Lisburn) Ltd
The Scottish Nursing Guild

**Q3. In the period 1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025 please provide a breakdown of:
Total trust spend with the internal trust bank or associated external provider for locum nurses.**

A3a. The total spend with internal Trust bank or associated external providers for locum Nurses for the period 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025 is £5,796,036.

Please provide a further breakdown for locum nurses by:

Q3b. Spend per band.

A3b. Please see Table 5 for the total spend with internal Trust bank for locum Nurses, broken down by band from 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 5

Band	Spend
Band 2	£461,015
Band 3	£1,683,261
Band 5	£2,466,056
Band 6	£923,390
Band 7	£221,276
Band 8a	£39,595
Band 8b	£1,443

Q3c. Spend per speciality.

A3c. The Trust is unable to provide a breakdown of spend by speciality as the use of agency Nurses is to support care and treatment of medial outlier patients rather than aligned to a speciality

Q3d. Spend per agency name.

A3d. All internal locum Nursing staff are booked through the internal Trust bank.

Q4. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025)?

A4. Please see Table 6 for the number shifts been filled by Agency Nurses for the 01/04/2025 to 30/06/2025.

Table 6

Band	No. of Shifts
Band 2	5316
Band 3	2250
Band 5	9669
Band 6	70

Q5. Please confirm the total number of nursing shifts booked above NHSE capped rates during this period for all agency nursing only, no bank staff nursing to be included (1st April 2025 to 30th June 2025)?

A5. The information requested is not held on a central information system. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records.

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this statement acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of question 5.